

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-45 (Canceled)

46. (New) A method of making a surgical instrument of the kind that includes an inner tube disposed for movement within an outer tube, comprising
 providing a tubular member adapted to serve as one of the inner tube or the outer tube, the tubular member having an open distal end,
 rotary swaging the distal end of the tubular member closed, and
 forming the closed distal end to a shape that substantially matches a shape of another one of the inner tube or the outer tube,
 wherein portions of the tubes are adapted to interact with each other to perform a surgical operation in response to the movement of the inner tube within the outer tube.

47. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the tubular member includes a distal edge that defines an opening at the distal end, the swaging comprising driving regions of the tubular member disposed adjacent to the distal edge together to close the opening.

48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein, prior to the swaging, the distal edge is disposed symmetrically about an axis of the tubular member, the swaging comprising driving the adjacent regions of the tubular member together symmetrically with respect to the axis.

49. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein, prior to the swaging, the distal edge is disposed perpendicularly to the axis of the tubular member.

50. (New) The method of claim 46 wherein the swaging produces a seam in material of the tubular member at the distal end, and further comprising fusing the material together at the seam.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 further comprising performing the fusing by welding the distal end.

52. (New) The method of claim 50 wherein the swaging produces a protrusion of the tubular member material at the seam, and further comprising cutting away a selected amount of the protrusion prior to performing the fusing.

53. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising forming the closed distal end of the tubular member into a selected shape.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the selected shape is rounded so that the distal end defines convex interior and exterior distal surfaces.

55. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the convex distal surfaces are substantially hemispherical.

56. (New) A method of making a surgical instrument of the kind that includes an inner tube disposed for movement within an outer tube, comprising
 providing a tubular member adapted to serve as one of the inner tube or the outer tube, the tubular member having an open distal end,
 swaging the distal end of the tubular member closed,
 forming the closed distal end to a shape that substantially matches a shape of another one of the inner tube or the outer tube, and
 forming the closed distal end of the tubular member into a flattened shape so that the distal end defines flattened interior and exterior distal surfaces,
 wherein portions of the tubes are adapted to interact with each other to perform a surgical operation in response to the movement of the inner tube within the outer tube.

57. (New) The method of claim 53 further comprising performing said forming by pressing the distal end between a pair of dies that define the selected shape.

58. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising
 providing the tubular member as the inner tube of the surgical instrument, and
 after the swaging, disposing a cutting implement at the distal end of the tubular member.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 further comprising disposing the tubular member for rotation within the outer tube of the surgical instrument.

60. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising
 providing the tubular member as the outer tube of the surgical instrument, and
 after the swaging, defining a window at the distal end for exposing a cutting implement carried by the inner tube.

61. (New) The method of claim 46 further comprising

providing a second tubular member to serve as the other one of the inner tube or the outer tube, the second tubular member having an open distal end, and
swaging the distal end of the second tubular member closed.

62. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the movement is coaxial rotation.
63. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein pressing comprises hammering.
64. (New) The method of claim 63, comprising hydraulically hammering the closed distal end.
65. (New) A method of making a surgical instrument of the kind that includes an inner tube disposed for movement within an outer tube, comprising
providing a tubular member adapted to serve as one of the inner tube or the outer tube, the tubular member having an open distal end,
rotary swaging the distal end of the tubular member closed, and
welding the closed distal end.
66. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the swaging produces a seam in material of the tubular member at the distal end, and welding the distal end fuses the material together at the seam.
67. (New) A method of making a surgical instrument of the kind that includes an inner tube disposed for movement within an outer tube, comprising
providing a tubular member adapted to serve as one of the inner tube or the outer tube, the tubular member having an open distal end,
rotary swaging the distal end of the tubular member closed, and
forming the closed distal end to a shape permitting a distal end of the outer tube to receive a distal end of the inner tube in a close running fit that enables portions of the tubes to interact with each other to perform a surgical operation in response to the movement of the inner tube within the outer tube,
wherein the movement is coaxial rotation.